

NOAA and Our Planet Day at Aquarium of the Pacific: The annual NOAA West Day event focused on the theme “NOAA and Our Planet” and was a rousing success. The Friday evening kick-off started with a reception at the Aquarium of the Pacific that included Dr. Sylvia Earle as the keynote speaker and opening remarks from Tim Keeney, NOAA Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, and marine life artist, Wyland. There was also a tour of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary research vessel R/V Shearwater. Some 150 NOAA supporters attended the reception which included NOAA scientists and staff, US Congressional representatives and staffers, local resource managers, and NGO and university partners.



The all day Saturday event was also hosted by the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach, California. Most of NOAA's offices in the western region were represented with outreach exhibits, handouts, activities, and demonstrations. Additionally, there was a climate-related presentation, NOAA Sanctuary vessel tours, an ocean art competition for the local public schools, a NOAA film festival, and assorted NOAA research equipment on display including an experimental trawl net, bottom sampler, and Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV). The ROV was a special hit with the children that were all given a chance to operate it themselves.

An event highlight included the unveiling of the new NOAA kiosk at the Aquarium of the Pacific. The interactive kiosk provides visitors an opportunity to learn first hand about programs and activities of NOAA Fisheries Service, the National Marine Sanctuaries, NOAA National Weather Service and the Aquarium of the Pacific. This was a joint agency effort to focus on the “One NOAA” concept.

Approximately 6,000 members of the public attended the Saturday event, which showcased NOAA Fisheries Service (Science Center, Region Office, Office of Law Enforcement), NOAA Restoration Center, NOAA Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, NOAA National Weather Service, NOAA Sea Grant, NOAA Northwest Regional Office-Pacific Hydrographic Branch, Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve, and Scripps Institute of Oceanography.



The event coordinators, Ms. Gabrielle Dorr (NOAA Restoration Center Outreach Coordinator) and LCDR Peter Fischel (NOAA Corps, NMFS/SWRO) noted that “this was the best NOAA West Day ever and an outstanding way to educate the public about NOAA’s mission and accomplishments.”

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